Prayers

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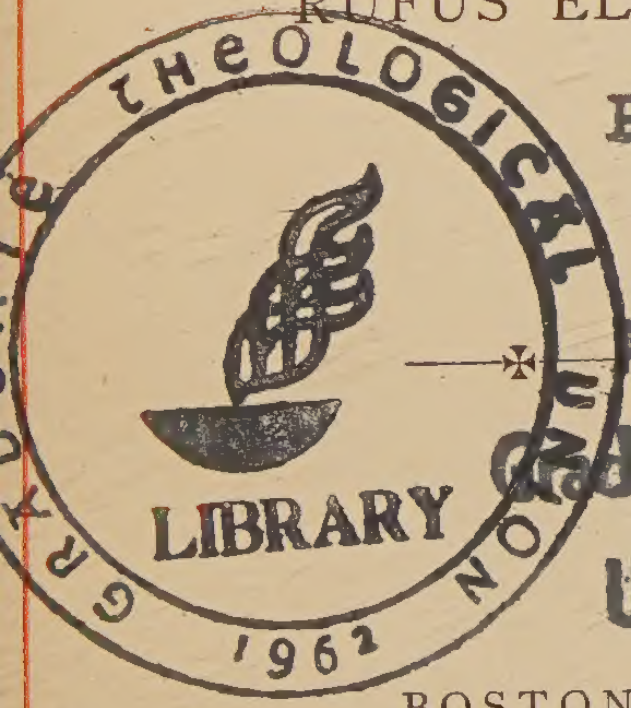

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JOHN WILSON AND SON, CAMBRIDGE.

A few prayers of one whose prayers were consolation and strength to many are offered to those whose hearts have been uplifted by them as they fell from the lips of their minister and friend, and to others who may by them be helped to draw nearer to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

MAY, 1886.

PRAYERS.

I.

O THOU Almighty Helper and ever-present God, we bring to Thee all our needs, and here in Thy presence we would bear one another's burdens upon hearts of prayer. O Thou Author of all good, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift, may Thy mercies be our daily song, and may the light of Thy countenance in this world of power and beauty move our hearts to great thankfulness and a sweet trust. Day by day Thou dost appoint our portion, especially revealing Thy glory in the dear Son of

Thy love, and calling us into His Kingdom of service and blessedness. May this be our love of Thee in Him, that we love one another and keep all His commandments.

II.

WE bow before Thee, O Thou adorable and ever-blessed God. All Thy works and all Thy ways reveal Thee, and in Thy Son we see Thee face to face, and Thy Spirit beareth witness unto our spirits. Thanks be unto Thee for the great Love with which Thou art loving us. Forgive our sins. Pity our weakness. Succor us in our infirmities. Lift us above worldliness. Change and renew our hearts. Give us more faith, hope, charity. Add unto the Heavenly Kingdom what

Thou seest to be best. May we cast upon Thee every care. May we discharge as for the love of Christ every duty. May we not seek our own. May we not rejoice in iniquity. May we preach in deed and in word the glad tidings of the Gospel. O Lord, sanctify for us all earthly works and joys and trials. Open our eyes to see the sins that are done and the miseries that are endured all about us. Make us workers with Thee and with Thy Christ in the Gospel of Love and Holiness. Bless our dear friends, near and afar off. Speak comfortable words to the sick and afflicted, and to all Thy people. Show Thyself gracious unto all, that the mystery of sin and evil may be resolved in the light of the glorious Gospel of the Son of God. **Amen.**

III.

HOLY GOD, our Heavenly Father, in the place of Thy Holiness we would reverently bow. Thee we would adore. Thy mercies we would humbly crave. Unto Thee we would bring devout praises and hearty supplications. Let not our earthly cares have power wholly to separate us from Thee. May we give our minds and our hearts to the great realities of time and of eternity. In true sorrow for sin and in a grateful acknowledgement of Thy unchanging love, may we worship the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

IV.

O GOD, who of Thy great Love to this world didst reconcile earth to heaven through Thine only begotten Son, grant that we, who by the darkness of our sins are turned aside from brotherly love, may by Thy light shed forth in our souls be filled with Thine own sweetness, and embrace our friends in Thee and our enemies for Thy sake in a bond of mutual affection.

O God, who art Peace everlasting, and whose chosen reward is the gift of peace, and who hast taught us that the peacemakers are Thy children, pour Thy sweet peace into our souls, that everything discordant may utterly vanish, and all that makes for peace be sweet to us forever.

V.

WE bless Thee, Heavenly Father, for the light of this holy morning. Thou dost pour it forth from Thine Infinite Fullness to illumine the face of the world and to gladden the heart of man. May we worship Thee in gratitude and in joy. May Thy love, as it is displayed in the works of nature and in the Gospel of Christ, stir our souls to obedience. May we enter into new covenants, and take upon ourselves more solemn vows; and by the help of Thy all-sufficient Grace may we pray more earnest prayers, and enter into a closer and more real communion with Thee, the living and true God. In the Name of our Lord we ask it.

VI.

OUR Dear Father in Heaven, Thou hast promised by the lips of our blessed Saviour that if we ask we shall receive. We do ask Thy holy and helpful Spirit that we may be filled with truth and love, and be true disciples of Jesus Christ. May Thy blessing be upon us in this Sunday-school. May this hour be spent in the light of Heaven. May our minds be thoughtful and our hearts open and tender, and may all who are gathered here find that God is speaking to them in great goodness. We come, O Lord, not for a form or because we must, but for Thy great Love in Christ our Saviour. Amen.

VII.

EVER-BLESSED and All-loving God, our dear Heavenly Father, in the Spirit of our gracious Lord we meet to praise and pray, to seek for the truth, to learn to love Thee with the whole heart and to love one another. May we be altogether devoted to our blessed work. May we feel Thee very near. May we not only call upon Thee, but know that Thou hearest and lovest and answerest us. May Thy Holy Word be a lamp unto our feet. May our school be blessed with the light of the Lord's face, and may we find Thee always in our homes and in our hearts. O Lord, let Thy Holy Will be our will, and may our gathering within these walls be unto Thy glory and unto the praise of our Saviour Christ. Amen.

VIII.

O LORD, overshadow us in our place of prayer with Thine Infinite Love. From Thee is every good and perfect gift. Grant an unction from Thine own Spirit which searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God; and vouchsafe to Thy people the hearing ear and the understanding heart, that they may hear and understand and their souls may live.

IX.

O GOD, our Guardian by night, our Guide by day, Thou hast led us forth from darkness and slumbers into the light of life and it is Thy day. May it be a holy time, and passed in Thy nearer presence and in the love of Jesus Christ our Lord.

X.

IN the hope of the Glorious Coming and Manifestation of Thy dear Son, we draw near to Thee this day. Thy Spirit spake by the prophets, dwelt in the Son, and seeks our hearts in this very hour. May it take entire possession of us, that we may worship in great thankfulness and pray in great faith and in all charity. Hear us, O God, in Thy dear and ever-blessed Son. Amen.

XI.

MAY we lift our hearts to Thee this day in great thankfulness, humbly acknowledging Thy mercy and Thy truth, Thy large and tender Providence, Thy near-

ness to us at all times, Thy Spirit of Wisdom and Might and Peace, the works and the joys and the discipline of earth which Thou dost appoint, the promises that lay hold of things to come. O Spirit of all grace and benediction, Father of our dear Lord and Saviour, coming to us in Him and in His, Creator of these dying bodies, Life and Light of these undying souls, Thy gifts are new upon us every morning. Thy hand hath led and Thine arm hath upheld us through these passing days, and still Thou dost teach unto our hearts a blessed trust. May Thy great love redeem us; and from the light of a true life below may we pass at length into that Presence where there is fullness of joy and abundance of peace forever.

XII.

OUR Heavenly Father, may Thy Holy Spirit be in us a Spirit of holiness, that we may be accepted of Thee whilst we adore and give thanks and pray. In Thine Infinite Love be found of our seeking and answer our asking, and forgive our poor deservings and our sinfulness, through Christ our Lord.

XIII.

OUR Merciful Father, we pray Thee to open those hidden ways through which Thou dost approach our souls, that our Communion and Fellowship may be in Thee, in the Spirit of Thy Son. Let our eyes behold the invisible

things of God, and may our ears hear His voice that speaketh in our hearts. Strengthen and refine the spirit within us that ever seeketh to return unto Thee in childlike faith and filial prayer. Through the mediation and ministry of Christ, and by our unceasing worship in His Name, may we grow into a firm and effectual persuasion of Thine Infinite Love. O Thou Almighty Power and Perfect Goodness, whose great Hand upholdeth the boundless universe and guideth the sparrow, we acknowledge the wonders and loving kindness of Thy Providence. Let not Thy common daily mercies be received in unthankfulness; but may we recognize the tender care of our Heavenly Father in the large dispensations of those needful gifts which supply all our wants. Thine

is the sweet and pleasant Light, and Thou dost uphold this wondrous earthly frame, and by Thee the springs of its life are continually fed ; out of this dust and these poor mortal conditions Thou art striving to raise immortal souls into a Divine Faith and Fellowship, and to establish them for evermore in the Heavenly Dwelling Places. Thanks be unto Thee for the everlasting life which Thou hast offered to the world through Thy Son ; for the messages of mercy and the promises of help, and for the glorious hopes for this world and for the world to come which are through Him.

Father of Jesus Christ the Righteous, forgive the sins of Thy children ; deepen within our hearts that new love of the Truth and of Goodness which is the spring of a sincere

and effectual penitence. May we discern the solemn meaning of these earthly days, that high and sacred purpose for which they were given. Chasten us, yet not in sternness. By all means bring us to ourselves. O God, forgive our shortcomings; and through Him who died, quicken us to a Christian life. Thou hast richly blessed us hitherto. Still hold us in the hollow of Thy hand; still fill us with Thy Spirit; still pity and forgive us as Thy dear children; and in Thine own good time, our labors ended for this world, may we sleep in peace, trusting in Thy great promises and looking for the gift of God, which is Everlasting Life.

XIV.

ALMIGHTY FATHER, whose grace doth ever keep, whose arms ever enfold, and whose love can never fail us, we would commit our way unto Thee in faithful prayer. May we trust in Thee and do good. May we live closer to conscience and to the sweet and holy light of the Redeemer's life. Through our ever-increasing faith and love, may we be the children of the promises, our hearts, our homes, our cities, our country, refreshed with the abundance of Thy Spirit. In greater simplicity and sincerity may our daily work be done, O Thou in whom alone are the springs of our being. May we invite Thy mercies through our charities, Thy great Love by our earnest and sincere affections. May we invite Thy

blessed ministries, O Thou Holy Comforter, for all who are in trouble, that their tears may be wiped away by Thine own hand. Very thankful would we be for this life of rich opportunities and boundless hopes, for the discoveries which Thou hast made of Thyself in the works of Thy Hand and in the Gospel of Thy Son. Each day we would love Thee more, and more heartily praise Thee, with gratitude in our hearts whilst the words of thankfulness are upon our lips ; and so in all faithfulness would we come to Thee in the confidence of the disciple of Christ, and the fellowship of Thine own holy Spirit.

XV.

WHO can number up the mercies of our God! Who can tell the treasures of Thy Might and Wisdom and Love, our glorious Father in Heaven! Heaven and earth bear witness unto Thee, the wonderful Creator. The glad heart of man doth worship Thee, the Fountain of all joy. The weary and disconsolate doth celebrate Thy sweet consolations. God of all power and goodness, Author and Giver of every good and perfect gift, we praise Thee, we worship Thee, we give thanks to the Father Everlasting, the Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Blessed be Thy Name, that the mystery by which we are compassed about is a mystery of Infinite Love. For all that hath made the past

week beautiful and blessed we devoutly thank Thee, — for the Heaven above and for the earth beneath, and for the life which goeth forth evermore from Thee, for the day and for the night, for joy and sorrow, for the mercies that make us thankful, for the trials that admonish us to renew our trust and to exercise our souls in patience. Help us to live in the light which Thou, the Eternal Sun, art ever pouring forth. Help us to rise above the earthly into the heavenly, — to see the invisible, to share Thy quietness, even the Lord's peace. We confess our sins. Let there be sorrow, not hopeless and despairing, but deep and tender, in our hearts. Forgive us, Thou whose property it is to have mercy, Thou whose Son died that we might live, Thou whose angels

rejoice over every sinner that repenteth. Redeem us into a life of love. May we join ourselves to Christ in self-renunciations and sacrifices, that we may receive at His hand a crown of life and of immortal beauty. Hear our prayers, dear Lord, for others, Thy children, the disciples of our Divine Master, — all who are following Him and all who need Him. Especially, Father, do we commend unto Thee, the Healer, the Consoler, the sick and the bereaved and the desolate. Thou art able to pour in light upon the thickest darkness, and they who have learned of Thee have great peace. We beseech Thee to turn the hearts of the violent, and that we may live peaceably with all men. Our eyes wait for the glorious and blessed Dawn. Let us behold that sweet Dayspring, that we may live

in peace and depart in peace; that we may do the work and die the death of the righteous, giving glory in heart and act, with the words of our lips and the deeds of our hands, to Thee, our Father, and to Thine only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

XVI.

OUR Holy Father in Heaven, with reverent love we turn unto Thee. Thankfully would we bring unto Thy throne the offerings of our hearts; for all things are full of Thy goodness, and out of Thine abundant mercy we are every day nourished and blessed. The light and the darkness, our times and our seasons, these glorious heavens and this teeming earth, are Thine. Thine is the Spirit of

Knowledge in our minds. Thine is the Spirit of Love in our hearts. Thine is the order of society. Thine are the sacred and beneficent fellowships and ministries of life. Thine is the Everlasting Gospel, with its Heavenly Redeemer, with its unchanging truth, its unconquerable energy, its sweet and abounding charity. Thine is the Law and Thine are the Promises; for Thy Fullness is inexhaustible and Thy Mercy endureth forever. O Father, awake our souls with Thy blessed touch, that we may pay unto Thee the meed of praise, that our meditation of Thee may be sweet, that we may be glad in the Lord; and in the beauty of holiness may we worship Thee, and may we delight greatly in Thy Commandments; and being delivered through Christ out of the hand of

our enemies, may we serve Thee in love and in righteousness all the days of our lives. Suppliant we bend before Thee, entreating that our sins may be forgiven, that our miseries may be effaced, that health may be granted unto our souls, and that we may have the divine gift of everlasting peace. May our hearts be pure within. May we, with clear consciences, sing praise to Thy glory.

XVII.

UNTO Thee we would bow the knee, O Thou God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In the light of His revelations, in the power of His Spirit, in the fellowship of His Church, we would pray and meditate.

Thanks be unto Thee first of all for that unspeakable gift! Herein may we chiefly discern Thy Love. May we rejoice and believe that even such a Father as Christ hath revealed is the Creator of our bodies, the Sustainer of the world, the Guardian of our lives, and our Guide through the valley of the shadow of death; that He encompasseth and upholdeth and heareth when we call upon Him. O God, we bless Thy Name for the multitude of Thy mercies. Every day is crowned with Thy goodness. Light and Love and Peace ever await our seeking. Thou dost encourage us with successes, and admonish us by failures, and chasten us through bereavements. From Thee the thousand blessings of this life, and the Powers of the world to come minister unto us at

Thy bidding. Make us wise to know Thee; make us faithful to obey Thee. Lead our hearts to a more earnest recognition of Thy Presence and tender care. And as Thy tender compassions are revealed to us in the Christ, as we are drawn unto Him through the best affections and purest hopes of our human hearts, may we be stirred to a hunger and thirst after righteousness, and to that godly sorrow for sin which worketh repentance unto life. We have all many shortcomings to confess. We all need to be persuaded of Thy mercy in Christ. Forgive the multitude of our transgressions, and let our hearts be replenished with larger measures of Thy Grace. Commend us anew to the Word of Thy Love, that we may be built up, that the Kingdom which cometh

not with observation may be established in our hearts. O Thou great Giver, mercifully supply our various wants, consecrate for us our toil, and bind us closely unto our brethren. In all the charities and brotherly services of life may we keep the New Commandment of the merciful Lord. We commend unto Thee, our Heavenly Father, the spiritual and earthly estate of our brethren. We pray for the ignorant and the poor, for the friendless and the homeless, for the exposed and the tempted, for the unbelieving and sinful. Let the defences of the Gospel be multiplied about the weak. Let it witness for the great ends of justice and humanity. Let its glad messages go out through all the earth.

XVIII.

AS we keep Holy Time, O Lord of our life, under the deepening shadows of the closing year, may we thank Thee for all that it hath brought to us of mercy and truth, for the lights that have ruled our day and cheered our night, for Thy Being and our natures, for Thy Providence and our faith, for Thy dear Son and the grace by which we are His disciples, for the Law which doth uphold and the Love which doth comfort our world. Make this passing time sacred to us for the precious thoughts of Thee which it doth awaken in our hearts. Let it not be in vain that so many have suffered affliction. May they receive a hundred-fold in the treasures of faith and hope and love and

peace. Especially do we thank Thee for those who have perilled and lost their lives for our sakes. Sadly do we think of those who went down to the sea in ships and should return to us no more; and yet, O God, they are with Thee, and Thou art not the God of the dead but of the living. We pray not for the dead, but the Church beneath doth pray with the Church above, and the Light which doth shine upon us from the Face of Jesus doth refresh their spirit also. Bless all to whom this has been a year of bereavement, and fulfil for them Thy Word, that at evening-time there shall be light. Help us all to redeem the Time and to devote ourselves more entirely to Thy high and blessed service. Heavenly Father, we would acknowledge Thy providing Love. Let us be gath-

ered about our altar in the name and in the Spirit of Jesus. Let this service of Thyself and this ministry unto Thy children be indeed blessed of the most High God. O Father, we thank Thee that, though we be humble and of the earth, we are included within the compass of Thy great and wise purpose, and entreated and aided to follow after Thee as dear children. Let Thine heavens be open above our House of Prayer. Let Thy Grace suffice to enlighten our darkness and to strengthen our weakness, and may we come together to consecrate our best affections and energies unto Him who created, through Him who redeemed us.

XIX.

HELP us to enter into Thy gates with thanksgiving and into Thy courts with praise. We thank Thee for Thy goodness unto us in the wonderful order of Thy Providence, that Thou art with us in all time of our prosperity and in all time of our adversity. Not without Thee have we rejoiced, and not without Thee have we mourned. In the path of life Thou art the Light of our countenances and Thou dost go down with us into the valleys of sorrow and death. In the face of the Lord Jesus Christ we have seen Thy glory and Thy beauty, and His Spirit in us is victory over evil and life for evermore. For each day's gifts, for mercies that we cannot number, for the beauty of childhood, for all faithful

souls, for the light that shines in the face of age and lingers in the changed countenance, we bless Thy Holy Name. In this redeemed world we would magnify God our Redeemer, and praise Him in consecrated lives through our ever-living and ever-blessed Lord Jesus.

XX.

O LORD our God, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth! Thou art become exceeding glorious; Thou art clothed with majesty and honor; Thou deckest Thyself with light as it were with a garment, and spreadest out the heavens like a curtain. We would worship Thee in Spirit and in Truth. May we come to do Thy will, to follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no one shall

see the Lord. And as we enter into the holy places made with hands, may they be to us the figures of the true, that we may follow Christ into heaven itself, and be in Thy presence with Him forever.

XXI.

O GOD our Father, Thou overflowing Spring of endless love, how shall we worthily magnify Thee, whose loving kindness far exceeds all our hopes? We celebrate that good Providence which hath ordered heaven and earth and all creatures and all souls and spirits. We laud and magnify that Love which moveth us to love and is grace and peace in our hearts, the Author of all sweet affections and divine charities. We praise the Mighty One, the Merciful, the Wise, whose Power

is our defence, whose arm upholds us, our Guide by day and by night, our Fellow-voyager and Fellow-traveller. We praise Him who giveth us light and health and food in our homes, the truth which we crave, the blessing which we have no skill and no faith to ask. In great goodness Thou art pleased to visit us in the world which Thy hand hath fashioned to beauty. In Thy dear Son Thou dost express a boundless tenderness towards us, and dost seek to make us glad with a Real and Divine Presence, — our Health, our Glory, and in the day of distress our Refuge. Let Thy law of love be more our law. Bring us to Thyself in faithful obedience, bind us to each other in sweet dispositions, and eternal praise shall be rendered unto God for His unspeakable goodness.

XXII.

BLESSED Father, we give thanks and pray unto Thee. It hath pleased Thee to reveal Thyself, and we are not alone in the world. Thou hast spoken unto us through Thy dear Son, the Brightness of Thy Glory, the Image of Thy Person, and it is Eternal Life unto us to know Thee in Him whom Thou hast sent. Blessed be Thy Name for the speech and language of the Christ, — that sound which shall go out throughout all the earth. Let it be a word unto each heart now in Thy Presence. May He bring us nearer to Thee. Thou workest hitherto. Thou hast defended and sustained us. We have been encompassed by the Lights which Thou hast kindled up in the world. Num-

berless blessings bear witness of the Infinite Love, and Thy consolations ever wait upon our necessities. Thy strength ever encompasseth our weakness. Creator, Sustainer, Guardian, Light of our dwellings, Spirit of Truth and Peace, Redeemer and Sanctifier, we bless Thine High and Holy Name. Merciful Father of Him whom Thou didst send into the world to seek and save the lost, forgive unto us, through Him, the multitude of our transgressions, and make us penitent from the very depths of our hearts. May we hear Thy voice, that we may know wherein we every day offend. Quicken our consciences, kindle our affections, raise and purify our aspirations, set before us in a clear and attractive light the great ends of Life, that Truth which the Saviour came

into the world to establish in victory. O Lord, let us be His true and loyal disciples; then shall we obey Thee from our hearts, and whatsoever we think or say or do shall be unto Thee. O Lord, direct our steps. O Lord, bless our toil. O Lord, give us minds of contentment and of trust. Out of darkness and amidst sorrows, if it shall so seem good unto Thee, may we give thanks unto the Great Disposer, who was revealed through the Man of sorrows, the persecuted and the crucified. And let us not be high-minded, or trust in any outward prosperity; but let us trust only in Thee, remembering that we are but stewards of Thy bounty, and that we shall be called at last to an account. We pray, Father, for Thy poor, our brethren; we pray for those who are despised of the

proud, yet beloved of Thee and redeemed of the Lord, that we may be permitted to serve them; we pray for the ignorant and for the enslaved; we pray for our rulers and our judges; for the cause of Liberty and Humanity; that in the work of righteousness we may find peace, and that the effect of righteousness may be unto us quiet and assurance forever. O Lord, direct our counsels, order our speech, increase our faith, raise our hopes, enlarge our hearts as we meditate, and in very truth may we share the baptism into the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

XXIII.

O GOD, who art and wast and art to come, the God of the swiftly passing generations of men, who art leading us through the changes of time to the rest and the blessedness of eternity, we pray Thee consecrate unto us for the last time this place and these moments. Once more may this be unto us the House of God and the Gate of Heaven. Gathered this day for our last services of Prayer and Praise and Meditation, may we be very near to Thee. Lifting our hearts together, may we find Thee in our seeking, and with Thee all that is best and most blessed and abiding. Thanks be unto Thee for Thy care and love in the days that are gone. Thou hast blessed our coming in

and our going out, and again and again have we found that Thou wast in the midst of us, Helper, Comforter, Guide, Saviour, making us even on earth to sit down in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. The God of the fathers, Thou hast been the children's God. For all those who have dwelt in Thy House as Thine own sons and daughters, praising and loving and serving Thee, we thank Thee. Some of them, as we trust, are gathered unto Thee into Thy nearer Presence. Refresh their spirit with the light of Thy Countenance, and give unto us great peace and great hope as we recall them during this last hour. For every good thought, for every Christian purpose, for every faithful work, for the love which hath cast out fear, for the good which hath overcome evil, for the Spirit of

Christ in every open heart, we thank Thee, whose treasures of power and grace have been poured out in this Sanctuary. Grant unto us, before the record of the house hath been finished and sealed, a fresh consecration, a very deep desire of the heart towards Thee in Thy dear Son. And O our Father, be very near unto those upon whom this great change presses heavily. Help them to look not so much on the things that are seen as on the things that are not seen. We pray for one who for so many years went in and out before this people, as the minister of Christ unto their souls. Be near to him to-day as he sits apart in his dwelling and may not turn his willing and eager steps to this House of his affections. Shed down upon him Thy sweetest influence, and grant unto him of the

abundance of Thy peace, and may he be assured that the hearts of his people are with him in many dear memories. As we go forth may we lay hold of Thy strong and gentle hand, not trusting in any arm of flesh but only and altogether in the loving God who doeth all things well.

[Closing services in Chauncy Street Church.]

XXIV.

ALMIGHTY and Ever-loving God, Thou livest though Thy children die, and Thou art ever near to uphold and comfort. Blessed be Thy Name for the faith which is by Christ and that in Him Thou hast overcome the bitterness of sorrow and the sharpness of death, and opened the Kingdom of Heaven

to all believing hearts. May Thy children of this household be near to Thee as Thou art near to them. Let this sorrow be unto them as Thy fatherly discipline, and may they hear Thee saying unto them as by the lips of the Christ, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." They would confess the wisdom of Thy decree. For all that hath been gracious and merciful they would devoutly thank Thee, and compassed about by the mystery of our life they would say, "Thy will be done." Be Thou the Strength of the weak, the Companion of the lonely, the Author and Finisher of an immortal life. Go with those who shall bear forth their dead to be gathered to kindred dust. Let the face of the risen and glorified shine down

through the darkness, and refresh our spirits evermore with the light of Thy Countenance. We pray in His Name who died for our sakes, beseeching Thee to forgive our great and manifold transgressions through Him who ever liveth to make intercession for us. Amen.

XXV.

MAY the Lord be our light, and in the abundance of His Grace may we pray our prayers. All our deep springs are in Thee. Thou only art unto us Wisdom and Love and Immortality. May we always feel Thee near, and know Thee to be good, and that Thy mercies are from everlasting to everlasting, and that only the least part of Thy glory and beauty

is revealed unto us, even as we are able to discern it and prepare our souls for Thy coming and for Thine indwelling. Deepen in us the Life everlasting. Take off our eyes from beholding vanity. Satisfy us with Thy likeness in the face of Jesus, our Lord. Fill us full of all charities. Enrich us with heavenly treasures, and may we be strong and brave to finish the work which is given us to do, and to be ready to meet Thee when Thou shalt require our souls and we may be no longer stewards. Our Father, unto Thee, in the light of our Saviour's blessed Life, we would lift our souls; and in the power of Thine ever-present Spirit, we would confess Thy Presence and hear Thy Voice. We thank Thee for Christ our Lord, for His word and work. We thank Thee

for that true Light shining in our world with still increasing brightness. We thank Thee for all who have walked, and especially for those near to us and dear, in whose lives we have seen this excellent glory and beauty. May we know that in the body and out of the body they are with Thee, and that when these earthly days come to an end, it is not that our service of Thee and of one another may cease, but that it may begin anew. Make us glad in all who have faithfully lived; make us glad in all who have peacefully died. Lift us into light and love and purity and blessedness, and give us at last our portion with those who have trusted in Thee and sought, in small things as in great, in things temporal and things eternal, to do Thy Holy Will.

XXVI.

O MERCIFUL God, we gratefully confess Thy Love in these passing days, in Thy giving and in Thy taking, when our homes are crowned with gladness and when the shadows gather. In weakness Thou art Strength, and when we are strong it is Thy Power, O Lord. Precious unto us is Thy Redeeming Love, precious is the light of this life, precious Thy promises and our hopes touching a better life to come. When we abound and our work is prospered may we be very thankful, and in all times of weakness may we be admonished to lean upon Thine Almightiness. We thank Thee for those Thy children who have made us glad in their living. May we be comforted and taught in heavenly things through their

dying. Lead us and be very near to us continually, O Thou Helper of our souls, and let our portion be with those who have loved and obeyed Thee in the blessed Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

XXVII.

OUR Father, our Souls wait for Thee, and in Thy word is our trust. Make us know and feel that Thy children are precious in Thy sight and that they live evermore unto Thee, that with Thy hand Thou dost cover them and that with Thine arm Thou dost protect them. And may it be in our hearts to say that in very faithfulness Thou dost afflict us, speaking comfortable words to our souls as we gather about our dead. The Lord gave,

and in Thy Providence this household hath been blessed in the days and the works which are ended. We need not say to Thee, the Giver, how precious and helpful this life hath been to Thy bereaved children, — their treasure laid up in their heaven and in their grateful and loving hearts. Even in their loneliness and their longings Thou dost make the remembrance of her care and faithfulness very sweet and helpful. Thou knowest what is best, and we commend them to Thee, the All-wise, All-loving, the Ever-near. In Thine own good time and in Thine own well-chosen way Thou wilt waken thoughts of trust and peace, and help them to say, under these freshly opened heavens, "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord, for they rest from their labors and their works do

follow them." And there remaineth for those who still wait an unseen companionship and guidance. May all who leaned upon and loved her, those who are near and those who are far, gathered with us or separated from us, be upheld and blessed in their day of sorrow, and say from their hearts, "Even as it pleaseth Thee, O Lord." Teach us all, by these and other like daily spectacles of our mortality, to see how frail and uncertain is our earthly condition, and to apply our hearts to that holy and heavenly wisdom which alone is blessedness here and in the world to come Everlasting life, that we, with all those who are departed in the true faith of Thy Holy Name, may have our perfect consummation and bliss in Thy heavenly and everlasting glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

XXVIII.

ALMIGHTY God, ever-living and forever blessed, in whose Hand our breath is and whose are all our ways, we would acknowledge at all times Thy wise and loving Providence. In the presence of our dead we would call upon Him who is not the God of the dead but of the living, and whose only begotten Son hath brought immortality to light. We perish like the moth, and our years upon the earth are few; but Thou art evermore the same, and Thine everlasting arms are opened wide to receive us, and Thou dost graciously incline Thine ear to the voice of that prayer which we must still send up unto Thee for strength and guidance and peace in these earthly places. May we

come unto Thee believing that Thou art. May we come unto Thee realizing that the Lord Jesus hath been with us, and hath spoken His sweet and comfortable words. Let His Spirit, Father, dwell abundantly in our hearts, that in us also, as in Thy saintly and blessed ones, may be fulfilled His great assurance, — "He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." Let not this death and these pains of bereavement which Thou hast appointed for all Thy children seem only strange and perplexing, but may we strive to regard them as a part of our Wise Father's dealing. Open the inward eye, — the eye which can behold the invisible things of God, — that we may see the Hand that leadeth us through days of

probation and weakness, these poor beginnings of our mortality, that we may be made strong and wise and holy and blessed forever. And let us take in good part even our great tribulations, remembering Him, the blameless Son of the Highest, who was also a man of sorrows and the sharer of our griefs, and who returned not to His Father's joy but first He suffered pain. And may we be willing to pass through that Door by which He hath entered into the Glory which He had with His Father before the world was. And let our tribulation be that which worketh patience, experience, and hope, through the love of God which shall be shed abroad in our hearts by that Holy Spirit which He doth give unto us. Let us look beyond the grave; let us follow the spirit into the Heavenly Dwelling Place,

the glorious abode of those who through faith and patience have inherited the promises and dwell evermore in Thee. Let the heart follow the heart's treasure and be persuaded that the souls of the righteous are in Thy great Hand and that no evil can touch them, that only in the sight of the unwise do they seem to die, that they do pass into Thy beautiful Kingdom and receive a crown of life.

XXIX.

THE words of our dear Lord still fall upon our hearts, and we thank Thee, Father in Heaven, that in so many lives of Thy children Thou art fulfilling these sweet benedictions and giving power to as many as receive Thee to become Thine own, and to lay up treasures

in Heaven, even the life of love for evermore. We gather for these last offices of faith and hope and love in quietness and in confidence. The sense of our great bereavement shall come to us in Thine own time; and in this hour we have no question to put unto Thee; scarcely have we any burden to cast upon Thee. Our thought is of the pure and peaceable spirit, the immortal life of this mortal form, released in Thy Providence from all earthly weakness and care and sorrow, lifted above all clouds, and compassed about by those things "which eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive." The truth and gentleness and beauty in which we rejoiced are laid up in our hearts, and Thine own child is with Thee.

XXX.

WE thank Thee for the dear and faithful dead, for those who have made the distant heavens a Home for us, and whose truth and beauty are even now in our hearts. One by one Thou dost gather the scattered families out of the earthly light into the heavenly glory, from the distractions and strife and weariness of time to the peace of eternity. We thank Thee for the labors and the joys of these mortal years. We thank Thee for our deep sense of the mysteries that lie beyond our dust, and for the eye of faith which Thou hast opened for all who believe in Thy Son to outlook that mark. May we live altogether in Thy Faith and Love, and in that Hope which is full of Immortality.

XXXI.

WE lift our souls to Thee, for Thou art our Father and with Thee are Light and Life, and we would draw near to Thee that Thou mayest draw near to us, and that we may know and feel that all things are of God. May we be earnest to do, and patient to bear, Thy Will. May we thankfully acknowledge Thine abounding mercies; and when we enter into the cloud and are cast upon the sea, may we believe that Thou wilt be Light and Salvation. Be Thou the Comforter of the lonely heart, and with precious memories and with holy hopes revive the fainting spirit; and may we look forward and upward, in great faith, to the House eternal and on high. And as Thou

dost disappoint the hope of man, wilt Thou grant abundantly that better and larger hope, that life which is immortality, and may Thy Spirit in our hearts be the earnest of that heavenly inheritance, that our joys and our griefs may be touched with Thy Light and Love.

XXXII.

OUR Father, help us to come to Thee in a childlike trust, and to say unto Thee, "Thy will be done." It is Thy wise and loving decree that here we have no continuing city. Open our eyes to see the Father's House on high; and may we be assured that they who are absent from us are gathered unto their fathers, and have found a more perfect rest in Thee. May

the Lord Jesus be unto us the Resurrection and the Life, and His words sweet and comforting unto our souls. Our Father, we acknowledge Thy great goodness in this completed life, that from childhood to age it hath revealed unto us Thy light and Thy sweetness, and in so many ways hath ministered food and gladness. In many joys and in many sorrows the beauty of the Lord hath illumined her countenance, and through her faith and patience the changes and the chances of our lot have been transfigured and glorified. Thy children thank Thee that she hath been so long with them. May they learn to thank Thee that she hath laid aside the failing body and hath been clothed upon with a new and wondrous life. Yea, Father, may we say, Blessed are the dead who die

in the Lord, for they live evermore unto Thee; and eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive what things the Lord hath prepared for them that love Him. We pray for all that mourn. We need not tell their sorrow unto Thee. Thou knowest, and Thou art the Comforter of Thy children, and in taking, as in giving, Thy hand is the hand of a Father. Sweet and precious as these memories shall be Thy consolations unto all who have revered and loved her and shall ever call her blessed, near and far, within and beyond these walls, gathered with us or separated from us. May they find peace in Thee, even in the fellowship of Thy gracious Spirit. May all fears and anxieties yield to the persuasions of this pure and peace-

able and quiet life, and as we gather for these tender offices may our conversation be in Heaven; may the veil between be taken away, and some foregleams of the everlasting brightness kindle upon our faces. Send Thy help to this household, O Thou mighty Helper, in this day of sore trial. Let Thine everlasting arm be about Thy children, as they minister unto the sick and suffering and wait Thy will. Sweeten for us our adversities; and though we go down into the valley of the shadow of death, may we know that Thou art strengthening our souls, and that there is light beyond, and that all things are working together for good to those that love Thee.

XXXIII.

LORD of life and death, in whose hand our breath is and whose are all our ways, our hearts turn to Thee. Lord, we believe; help Thou our unbelief, and lift us above the shadows of earth into the light of Thy Countenance and the comfort of Thy Presence. Help us to hear Him who saith to Thy children, "Because I live, ye shall live also." Help us to lie low under Thy heavy hand, and to say, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him." We thank Thee for all that hath been gracious and helpful in these earthly days; for all the ministries which Thou hast provided in the time of sickness; for the love that hath waited; for the blessed hope of the life to

come, that failed not from the heart in the hours of weakness and pain; for that memory of the just and loving which is blessed. We believe that it is well with him. We commend unto Thy blessed help, as their only Consoler, all these, Thine own, in their time of sore need. We need not tell their sorrows unto Thee. In the stillness of our hearts we ask for them Thy most sweet grace. Thou wilt speak to each of them the best word — the word of a great peace — in Thine own good time. Only help them, dear Father of Him who suffered for us and with us, — help them to take Thy strange work in good part, and to walk by faith through the darkness.

XXXIV.

ON this day of our Lord's Resurrection we have yet great sorrow and heaviness of heart, for the strength of our Israel hath been slain in our high places, and the nation as one household is bereaved. It is the Lord; let Him do as seemeth to Him good. "The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." May we take in good part Thy fatherly chastening. May we believe that the wrath of man doth ever praise Thee, so marvellous is Thy Providence. We thank Thee for our wise and faithful Ruler, and for all which Thou hast wrought by him for this people. Thou didst bring him up from the midst of the poor and lowly and set him on

high, and we have rejoiced to follow him. We know not now upon whom to lean. Let us all the more lean upon Thee. We ask help for our country, and for our Government, and for all who in these days of anxiety shall be called to our councils. We ask help for him who has been so suddenly and so strangely called to the highest place in the nation. O Lord, be his strength in weakness, and surround him with the wise and the good and the strong, and lead us out of this darkness into the Light and Life.

[After President Lincoln's death.]

XXXV.

OUR Father which art in heaven, Thou Holy Love, Thou God over all, in whom we trust, within us, above us, and around; Life of our lives, help us to pray in spirit and in truth. Let Thy love in our hearts be that perfect love which casts out all fear; let our confidence in Thee be that perfect trust which puts to Thee no questions. We come forth from Thee and come into this world; we leave this world and go to Thee. Thou art evermore our dwelling-place, and in the whole way of our pilgrimage, and in the body and out of the body Thou art with us in Thy guiding counsel, in Thine upholding might, in Thine infinite compassion, and in a hope which is ever full of immortality. We thank

Thee that for the light of Thy Countenance in the Lord Jesus we are not in darkness even here on earth, and that we can look beyond the grave in the dear persuasion that they who are lost in Thy light which shines for us here live and love us in the brightness of the Sun which no more goes down, and that in the night of affliction we can see the stars above us and the faces of the angels and the little children and the heavenly witnesses. We thank Thee for our portion in the undying life of Jesus, and for His voice which calls us into Thy wondrous Presence for a nobler service and a more abiding joy. O God of our fathers, whose promise is to us and to our children even eternal life, speak, for we wait to hear Thee, as we gather before silent lips and a changed face. It is Thine own

hour. It is a fast of Thine own appointing, O Thou Holy Spirit and Comforter. Take up the parable, we pray Thee, and prophesy unto us; for the preacher speaks no more from his pulpit, which was his joy and his throne. Take of the things of this life which Thou hast made so helpful and faithful, and write them upon these waiting hearts. Teach and comfort and strengthen Thy children of this congregation, as Thou hast taught and comforted and strengthened them by him whom these holy places shall know no more forever. They thank Thee for his good word and work, in all times of joy and sorrow, for the voice which gave no uncertain sound, for his simplicity and sincerity, for the fruit of the lips out of the fullness of the heart, for his ministries to the weary and lonely,

to the tried and tempted and heavy-laden. May they be at one with Thee in Thy dealings with him and take them in good part and be quiet, even as he was still under Thy heavy hand and knew that Thou couldst do him no harm. We will not tell out this loss and grief unto Thee in whose eyes Thy whole creation lies unveiled. We will not intermeddle with sorrows which it is ever Thy very nature and property to comfort. We will not intrude upon the loneliness or break the silence Thou hast made. We can almost hear him who has gone bidding us cease our tears and our sighs and our many prayers, seeing that for him the wonder of earth is ended, and the greater wonder of heaven is begun ; and that the dust is but dust, however precious ; and that the spirit is refreshed with the

light of Thy Countenance; and to the eyes which Thou hast opened all is love; and the tabernacles of our God very beautiful; and death, rest and peace; and life, immortality. We know that Thou wilt comfort all that mourn. We need not ask that of our Father. We know that Thou wilt reach the heart of the absent one across the great and deep sea. We know that Thou wilt consecrate this dying as this living to this congregation of his flock, and that being dead, he who is gone shall again be with them and speak to them. And to so many who are not of this fold, the care-worn and the battle-worn, Thou wilt make this life and death precious, as when they were strengthened by his manly presence, and waited upon his earnest word. And whether we speak or hear, whether we minister

or are ministered unto, may all of us, the friends and companions of his youth and of his studies, the brothers of his ministry, keep our lamps trimmed and our lights burning; and may we all, through Thy most gracious help in Christ, be so faithful in these few things that we shall be made rulers over many things, and enter into that higher service which is the joy of our Lord, through whom be glory to Thee, O Thou divine Love, our Lord and our God, forever.

[Funeral services of J. F. W. Ware.]

THE END.

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